

**Environmental Politics, POL 322**

Spring 2010

Department of Political Science

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**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.  
Thursdays 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.  
Mondays 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Welcome to *Environmental Politics* POL 322! Here we will examine four different facets of environmental policy. We begin the semester by analyzing three different ethical approaches to the environment. Each of these approaches attempts to answer the question: how should humankind relate to the environment? We then proceed to analyze the federal government's management of natural resources. Specifically, we explore the federal government's management of water, the national grazing lands, and the national forests. Thirdly, we will examine those environmental policies designed to protect our health: clean air policy, clean water policy, and toxic waste policy. We conclude the semester by discussing the international issues of energy policy, the environment as a trade issue, and the environment as an issue of national security.

To help us develop an understanding of environmental policies we will use the following texts:

Wilkinson, Charles F. 1992. *Crossing the Next Meridian: Land, Water, and the Future of the West*. Washington, D.C.: Island.

Cahn, Matthew. 1995. *Environmental Deceptions*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press.

Kamieniecki, Sheldon, George A. Gonzalez, and Robert O. Vos, eds. 1997. *Flashpoints in Environmental Policymaking: Controversies in Achieving Sustainability*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press.

Gonzalez, George A. 2009. *Urban Sprawl, Global Warming, and the Empire of Capital*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press.

All of the these books are available in the bookstore. Moreover, I will provide you with additional reading materials. These materials are noted in the course outline below.

Your course grade will be comprised of a mid-term exam, a book review paper, and a final exam. Each one will account for one-third of your grade. Class attendance and the quantity and quality of your class participation will be taken into consideration. The exams will be comprised of short answers and essays (no multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, or true-or-false questions). The book review paper should be 7 to 10 pages in length, and is based on Gonzalez's *Urban Sprawl, Global Warming, and the Empire of Capital*. Here, Gonzalez outlines the political forces driving the use of technology to abate localized air pollution in the U.S. Analyze Gonzalez's book. This involves providing a succinct description of the text, and telling the reader what you think of it and why.

I do not assume you have any prior knowledge of environmental politics or issues. The only prerequisite for this course is an open mind and a willingness to apply yourself.

#### Course Outline

**January 19, 21, and 26:** Introduction to the class and discussion of environmental sustainability

**Reading:** Kamieniecki et al. Introduction and Conclusion, and chap. 1 from *Corporate Power and the Environment*

**January 28, Feb. 2, and 4:** The Control of Fresh Water in the Arid West and Surfeit South Florida

**Reading:** Wilkinson chaps. 5 and 6, and Gonzalez article, "The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan: Economic or Environmental Sustainability?"

**February 9, 11, and 13:** Grazing on the Public Domain

**Reading:** Wilkinson chap. 3, and Gonzalez article, "Ideas and State Capacity, or Business Dominance? A Historical Analysis of Grazing on the Public Grasslands"

**February 18, 20, and 23:** Managing the National Forests

**Reading:** Wilkinson chap. 4 and Gonzalez article, "The Conservation Policy Network, 1890-1910: The Development and Implementation of 'Practical' Forestry"

**February 25:** Midterm Exam

**March 2, 4, 9, and 11:** Air Pollution Regulatory and Climate Change Policies

**Reading:** Kamieniecki et al. chap. 3, Cahn chap. 4, chap. 6 from *Corporate Power and the Environment* and Gonzalez article, "Local Growth Coalitions and Air Pollution Controls: The Ecological Modernization of the U.S. in Historical Perspective."

**No class:** March 16 and 18 (Spring Break!)

**March 23, 25, and 30:** Water Pollution Regulatory Policy and Toxic Waste Policy

**Reading:** Cahn chaps. 5 and 6

**April 1:** No Class!!! (Western Political Science Association Conference)

**April 6, 8, 13, and 15:** Energy Policy

**Reading:** Cahn chap. 7

**April 15:** Term Paper Due

**April 20 and 22:** Trade and the Environment

**Reading:** Kamieniecki et al. chaps. 9 & 10

**April 27 and 29:** National Security and the Environment

**Reading:** Kamieniecki et al. chaps. 11 & 12

**May 11, Tuesday, 2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.:** Final Exam